

# COVID-19 Public Health Alert No 17 / 4 August 2020

## Testing for COVID-19

Following the detection of recent cases in Queensland there has been a surge in testing demand. **The primary focus of surveillance in Queensland at this time is testing symptomatic individuals and the contacts of confirmed or suspect cases.** Testing asymptomatic people presenting to fever clinics is currently not encouraged.

### Who should be tested?

- Anyone with any of the following COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild:
  - fever or history of fever
  - sore throat, rhinorrhoea
  - cough, shortness of breath
  - acute fatigue/myalgia/arthralgia
  - loss of smell, loss of taste
- People in quarantine, in accordance with current quarantine protocols. This is to ensure they are not infectious when they are released from quarantine.

Clinical judgement should be used in testing people presenting with unexplained symptoms of acute onset not included in the above list.

**All people being tested should be advised to isolate themselves until their test results are available.**

### Testing is particularly important for people who have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and:

- are a close contact of a confirmed or suspect case
- have travelled internationally, or interstate through a hotspot (see link below)
- are in quarantine for any reason
- are residents in aged care (these residents may present with atypical symptoms including confusion and behavioural changes)
- are workers in occupations that have contact with high-risk individuals, e.g. healthcare, aged care or residential care workers
- are essential workers whose job involves a lot of travel (particularly interstate), e.g. people who work in the freight/transport/travel industry
- are workers in industries that have been linked with outbreaks elsewhere, e.g. abattoirs, large function venues
- are people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

**People who are suspected of having any other infectious condition (e.g. other respiratory viruses) who test negative for COVID-19 should be advised to stay at home until their symptoms are resolved or as otherwise clinically indicated.**

The list of hotspots is available at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19>

Approved by Public Health Incident Controller, Communicable Diseases Branch Incident Management Team